

Legislative WRAP-UP

2025 Regular Session
of the Florida
Legislature



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA



The Voice of Florida Business Since 1920

2025 Legislative Session Wrap-Up



Brewster Bevis
President & CEO



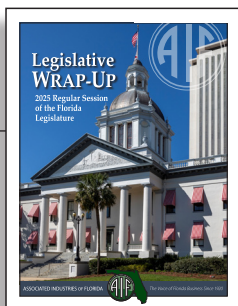
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The 2025 Legislative Session has been extended via a joint resolution for topics including rural renaissance policy, tax break negotiations, and all budget items. The regular sixty-day policy session concluded after hearings and debates on thousands of bills and hundreds of issues. With dozens of committees, thousands of bills filed, and more lobbyists than ever, this year made for a whirlwind of activity.

A significant win for Florida's business community came in the form of strong resistance against efforts to roll back the tort reforms of 2022 and 2023. Multiple bills aimed at undoing those hard-won reforms were introduced, but due to the diligent work of our advocacy team and engaged members, most were defeated.

As the extended session continues, AIF will keep members informed of any developments that could impact the business community. We remain hopeful for a swift and successful conclusion but vigilant against any last-minute proposals that could be harmful to employers.

At Associated Industries of Florida (AIF), our mission is clear: to support the men and women who drive Florida's economy by building businesses and creating jobs. That's why we are fully engaged in the legislative process—reviewing every bill, amendment, and debate—to advocate for pro-business policies and push back against legislation that threatens economic growth.



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The Issues

The *2025 Legislative Session Wrap-Up* provides a summary of the top issues for the business community during the 2025 Regular Legislative Session. These represent a small portion of all the bills and issues we followed. For more information and to view reports on various other issues, please visit our website at [AIF.com](https://aif.com).

Legal & Judicial



Evidence of Damages to Prove Medical Expenses in Personal Injury or Wrongful Death Actions

HB 947 by Representative Omar Blanco (R-Miami) was substituted for SB 832 by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills), originally an AIF supported bill dealing with phosphate mined lands, which died in House messages. Senator Erin Grall (R-Vero Beach) sponsored the companion bill, SB 1520, which died in the Senate Judiciary Committee without receiving a hearing.

This legislation would have repealed portions of the 2023 reforms that made claimant damages and past medical expenses transparent and fully available to a jury in civil trials relating to personal injury and wrongful death claims. Prior to the 2023 reforms, a common practice by plaintiff's attorneys was to inflate the total cost of damages by using a "letter of protection" that often multiplied damages upwards of 300 percent. These disputes produced a flurry of frivolous litigation and massive nuclear verdicts based on evidence that was dramatically inflated against the consistent market-price of medical procedures. HB 947 would have removed the ability for a jury to see the real cost of damages compared to other examples of similar medical expenses.

AIF opposed this bill as it would have repealed transparency in damages in civil actions and any other legislation that undoes previous reforms that have been working. Such reforms would open the floodgates for frivolous litigation and nuclear verdicts, leading to higher prices of insurance for businesses operating in Florida. Florida should look for ways to encourage insurers to form or expand in this state, not turn companies away with inconsistent law changes that would negatively affect them.

Attorney Fee Awards in Insurance Actions

HB 1551 by Representative Hillary Cassel (R-Dania Beach) was amended onto HB 947/SB 832 during session. The bill died in the House Judiciary Committee. Senator Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) sponsored the Senate companion, SB 426, which died in the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee without receiving a hearing.

This bill would have reinstated awards of attorney fees in many insurance actions, including property and auto. As the bill was written, trial attorneys would've had no risk in bringing claims against insurers because they would either get all their fees for winning even the smallest portion of the insurer's offer or voluntarily dismiss the case before an adverse judgment to avoid paying the insurer's fees. In the worst case, unscrupulous trial attorneys could have made unreasonable offers, lost, and left their clients to pay the insurer's fees. This legislation would have unwound a critical piece of the monumental 2022 and 2023 tort reform efforts.

AIF opposes legislation that aims to reverse previous legislative fixes addressing frivolous insurance litigation, which drives up costs. Florida should look for ways to encourage insurers to form or expand in this state, not turn companies away with inconsistent law changes that would negatively affect them.

Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death

HB 6017 by Representative Dana Trubuly (R-Fort Pierce) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Senator Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) sponsored the Senate companion, SB 734.

This bill repeals sections of the existing wrongful death law pertaining to adult children and parents of adult children's recovery of damages stemming from claims of medical malpractice. The bill will allow for claims for non-economic damages, more commonly known as "pain and suffering," to be filed for larger sums.

During its stop on the Senate Floor, HB 6017 was close to being amended with price caps to limit the amount a jury could award for non-economic damages in malpractice cases. This wholistic approach to the issue would have allowed AIF to support the legislation but

was unfortunately found unfavorable by a vote of 18-19.

AIF opposes this bill as passed as it expands litigation to noneconomic damages for medical malpractice without caps on noneconomic damages, which will destabilize insurance markets and raise costs of malpractice premiums throughout the state.

Attorney Fees and Costs for Motor Vehicle Personal Injury Protection Benefits

HB 1437 by Representative John Snyder (R-Stuart) died in the House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee. SB 1840 by Senator Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) died in the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee without receiving a hearing.

This bill would have reinstated provisions that allow one-way attorney's fees for personal injury protection (PIP) claims. This legislation would have allowed all plaintiffs who bring civil action against medical providers and insurers to obtain attorney fees and costs in addition to a settlement or verdict reached on the case. Florida is a "no-fault" state; therefore, PIP coverage is mandatory for all motorists.

AIF opposed this legislation, which would have tipped the judicial scales in favor of plaintiff's attorneys, who would be able to file an enormous number of lawsuits with no risk of paying fees to the opposing party.

Motor Vehicle Insurance

HB 1181 by Representative Danny Alvarez (R-Fish Hawk) died in the House Judiciary Committee. The Senate companion, SB 1256 by Senator Erin Grall (R-Vero Beach) died in the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee without receiving a hearing.

This bill would have repealed Florida's "no-fault" law, also known as personal injury protection (PIP), relating to motor vehicle insurance. The revisions outlined in the bill would have removed the requirement for motorists to have PIP coverage in Florida. Additionally, the bill provided for non-economic damages in personal injury cases to be recovered.

Currently, PIP coverage is mandated at \$10,000 per person level. This bill would have mandated \$25,000 of bodily injury coverage. This legislation would have allowed more claims to be filed, regardless of the severity of the injuries disputed, leading to increased frivolous litigation and "sue to settle" schemes that increase premiums against consumers and businesses. These changes as written would have increased insurance costs for businesses and consumers, undoing a lot of

the positive initiatives from the 2023 tort reform legislation.

AIF opposes PIP repeal until sufficient data is collected to show that the proposed replacement system will enhance competitiveness, ensure access to medical care, and promote consumer affordability.

Former Phosphate Mining Lands

SB 832 by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) was amended multiple times to include measures relating to tort rollbacks from other pieces of legislation. Representative Jon Albert (R-Frostproof) sponsored the House companion, HB 585, which died in the House State Affairs Committee.

Phosphate mining is a critical industry in Florida and is essential to providing sufficient fertilizers and agrichemicals for agricultural operations around the globe. SB 832 would have added a new, narrow defense against causes of action that come from naturally occurring elements. These additional measures would have ensured that phosphate mining companies, which meet all of their environmental permitting duties, aren't held liable for elements that are already in the land.

The added tort language from HB 947 and HB 1551 would have disrupted Florida's insurance market and raised insurance rates for all Floridians.

AIF supported the initial legislation that would have simplified regulatory patchwork and provided protections against frivolous litigation, allowing businesses to buy, sell, and develop land without the threat of unnecessary lawsuits while adhering to environmental regulations. **Unfortunately, when the bill was amended to add tort rollbacks, AIF was forced to oppose the bill.**

Cybersecurity Incident Liability

HB 1183 by Representative Mike Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) died in the House State Affairs Committee. Senator Nick DiCeglie (R-Indian Rocks Beach) sponsored the Senate companion, SB 1576, which died in the Senate Judiciary Committee without receiving a hearing.

The bill aimed to provide civil liability protection to entities that comply with specified cybersecurity requirements following a cybersecurity incident. This legislation is part of an ongoing effort to address the increasing reliance on data and software by businesses of all sizes and the rise in frivolous litigation following cyberattacks. By setting standards for businesses to follow, the bill seeks to protect them from such litigation in the event of a breach. Additionally, it created a framework for companies using consumer data to

enhance data protection against cyberattacks.

AIF supports legislation that creates a clear and consistent framework for businesses to follow in order to safeguard consumer privacy and to reduce the risk of frivolous litigation. These measures would create a fair playing field and encourage more businesses to invest in Florida without the fear of unnecessary lawsuits.

Fraudulent Use of Gift Cards

SB 1198 by Senator Nick DiCeglie (R-Indian Rocks Beach) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Representative Sam Greco (R-St. Augustine) sponsored the House companion, HB 1007.

This bill establishes stricter criminal penalties for those who illegally obtain, tamper with, or misuse gift cards sold by a business. There is a rising rate in the illegal use of gift cards in retail and online businesses that is costing Florida businesses millions. The penalties for fraudulently using gift cards would be a misdemeanor for all offenses under \$750 in damages and a felony for offenses above \$750 in damages.

AIF supports legislation that deters criminal acts against Florida businesses by establishing stricter penalties.

Court-Ordered Sealing of Criminal History Records

SB 1000 by Senator Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) died in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice. The House companion, HB 325 by Representative Traci Koster (R-Tampa) died in the House Criminal Justice Committee without receiving a hearing.

This bill would have expanded Florida's access to court-ordered sealing for individuals with a criminal record. The bills would have reworked the existing laws for record sealing in a way that permits those with non-serious offenses greater opportunities to have a record officially sealed.

AIF supports legislative efforts to increase a non-serious offender's access to record-sealing abilities. Florida, like many other states, continues to face issues with labor shortages. These initiatives would help more people enter the workforce and alleviate ongoing labor issues for businesses throughout the state.

Products Liability Actions Under the Florida Pesticide Law

HB 129 by Representative JJ Grow (R-Inverness) died in the House Housing, Agriculture, & Tourism Subcommit-

tee. SB 992 by Senator Jay Collins (R-Tampa) died in the Senate Judiciary Committee without receiving a hearing.

This bill would have removed several civil liability risks against businesses that use or distribute products containing certain pesticides or agrichemicals if the business did not directly oversee the development, design, or manufacturing of the product. Another provision of this bill prevented civil liability if a product label is tested and approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and used appropriately.

AIF supports legislation that reduces civil liability claims against businesses that buy and distribute products in accordance with EPA regulations and guidelines. This legislation would have protected businesses from frivolous lawsuits while following environmental regulations.

Economic Development



Manufacturing

SB 600 by Senator Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) died in House messages after being passed by the Senate. Representative Nan Cobb (R-Tavares) sponsored the House companion, HB 561, which was available to be heard on the floor, but died on 2nd reading.

This bill would have restructured Florida's approach to encouraging manufacturing investments. At the Department of Commerce, the bill would have created the role of "Chief Manufacturing Officer" to oversee the "Statewide Office of Manufacturing." Additionally, the bill provided for a Florida's Manufacturers' Workforce Development Program designed to encourage small manufacturers with new technologies, cybersecurity protocols, and workforce training. The bill also created a promotional campaign that markets state-manufactured products to consumers.

AIF supports initiatives that drive new manufacturing investment to the state and the promotion of "Made in Florida" products.

Business Regulation



Chemical Additives in Food Products

SB 560 by Senator Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) died in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government. The House companion, HB 595 by Representative Lindsay Cross (D-St. Petersburg) died in the House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee without receiving a hearing.

This bill would have banned certain chemical additives used as dyes, flavor enhancements, and other modifications in the food-making process. The list of banned additives included Potassium Bromate, Propylparaben, Red Dye 3, Blue Dye 1, Yellow Dye 5, Benzene, Butylated Hydroxyanisole, etc. The bill established fines for products sold in Florida that include the additives.

AIF opposes legislation that adds regulatory penalties to businesses that supersede existing regulations in the use of additives that are federally approved.

Consumer Right to Repair Certain Equipment

SB 1132 by Senator Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) died on the Senate Floor. The House companion, HB 235 by Representative Michele Rayner (D-St. Petersburg) died in the House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee without receiving a hearing.

This bill would have established new guidelines to enforce the digital right to repair for products that are mass-produced and often require servicing to perform optimally. The bill would have required manufacturers to provide a list of parts and tools used for the repair of devices to dealers and servicing providers. Good examples of such products are smartphones, computers, agricultural equipment, and automobiles.

AIF opposes legislation that would allow intellectual property that is developed and owned by manufacturers to be readily available for distribution by entities that are not associated with the manufacturer. These reforms could result in higher repair costs for products ranging from smartphones to heavy machinery.

Food Additives

HB 641 by Representative Debra Tendrich (D-Lake

Worth) died in the House Commerce Committee. The Senate companion, SB 764 by Senator Tom Wright (R-New Smyrna Beach) died in the Senate Agriculture Committee without receiving a hearing.

This bill mandated warning labels and other information pertaining to food products that contain certain chemical additives and ingredients. This included Blue 1-2, Green 3, Red 40, Yellow 5-6, and titanium dioxide. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has already set standards for labeling. This bill would have expanded upon those FDA standards and followed similar laws passed in California that have caused widespread compliance issues for businesses and consumers.

AIF opposes any regulation that oversteps the federal regulation of food and ingredients. Florida should allow the FDA to review the evidence produced to make informed decisions for the entire food industry to promote consistency in laws throughout the country.

Ultra-Processed Food

SB 1826 by Senator Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) died in the Senate Agriculture Committee. There was no House companion bill.

SB 1826 mirrored Senator Martin's SB 560 (Chemical Additives in Food Products) but explicitly prohibited Florida school districts from offering "ultra-processed" food in school cafeterias. The bill used definitions from the proposed language in SB 560 that bans food products containing certain dyes and other chemical additives.

AIF opposes legislation that adds another layer of regulatory patchwork against businesses that sell products that are FDA approved and considered safe for consumption.

Timeshare Plan Management

HB 897 by Representative Kim Berfield (R-Clearwater) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Senator Stan McClain (R-Ocala) sponsored the Senate companion, SB 496.

This bill clarifies the applicability of recently enacted legislation that governs timeshare management firms and community association management companies. The bill narrows the conflict-of-interest language to clarify the regulations to ensure transparency. The bill also clarifies how many times these management firms must meet per year and streamlines the process, ensuring regular oversight of these meetings. Finally, the legislation requires annual disclosure of information to stakeholders in the community.

AIF supports streamlining and clarifying the community association management companies' regulations to

ensure compliance and growth for Florida's residents and businesses.

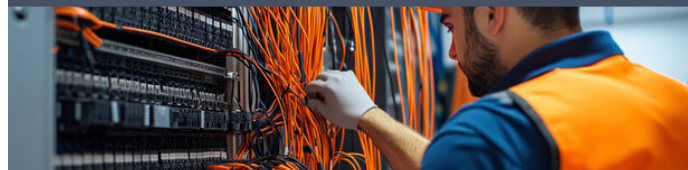
Registration of Agents and Organizations Associated with Foreign Countries

HB 583 by Representative Michael Owen (R-Apollo Beach) was amended and passed on the House floor. Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) sponsored the companion, SB 766, which died in the Senate Rules Committee.

The legislation requires any official or third-party representative of a foreign principal to register with the Division of Elections as a "foreign agent." The bill follows similar framework of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) that regulates foreign influence at the federal level. In addition to requiring all representatives to register as "foreign agents," the bills would mandate reporting for entities or representatives to include their identity, affiliations, financial transactions, and political activities.

AIF opposed the early iterations of the legislation and worked with policymakers and other stakeholders on changes that would specify agents as direct representatives of foreign countries of concern, not representatives of international companies doing business in Florida.

Utilities & Telecommunications



Utility Relocation

HB 703 by Representative Will Robinson (R-Bradenton) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Senator Stan McClain (R-Ocala) sponsored the Senate companion, SB 818.

This bill modifies the process of relocating utility facilities on the public right-of-way by using money derived from the communication service tax proceeds via the Utility Relocation Reimbursement Grant Program. This will help ease some scheduling pressure that certain utilities may have in the relocation process as well as shifts the cost burden from the utility owner. These expenses often add up when developments, road projects, and other local structures require broadband facilities to be moved. As Florida becomes increasingly more developed, these relocations will become ever more frequent.

AIF supports initiatives that ease burdens for utility

providers who are forced to move facilities from a right-of-way by local governments.

Utility Service Restrictions

HB 1137 by Representative Jason Shoaf (R-Port St. Joe) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Senator Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) sponsored the Senate companion, SB 1002.

This bill preempts local governments from enacting restrictions against how the source of energy is produced, used, delivered, converted, or supplied by utility providers. The bill has several housekeeping provisions that eliminate any current local ordinance conflicting with the proposed preemption.

AIF supports legislation that relieves tensions between utility providers and local governments that impose restrictions against different energy sources.

Assault and Battery on a Utility Worker

SB 1386 by Senator Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Representative Jennifer Kincart-Jonsson (R-Lakeland) sponsored the House companion, HB 857.

This bill increases penalties against individuals who commit acts of violence against utility workers while on duty. The bill rephrases statutory definitions of "utility workers" that require such individuals to wear appropriate gear that clearly identifies them as an employee of a utility provider.

AIF supports legislation that stiffens criminal penalties against those who commit acts of violence against utility workers working on critical infrastructure.

Assault or Battery of Contractors Performing State Functions

SB 1446 by Senator Stan McClain (R-Ocala) died in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee without receiving a hearing. Representative Chad Johnson (R-Chiefland) sponsored the House companion, HB 537, which died in the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee without receiving a hearing.

This bill would have provided greater protection for state contractors who are on the frontlines doing work on behalf of the state. The bill raised penalties for those who assaulted or battered these contractors in their line of work.

AIF supports legislation that stiffens criminal penalties against those who commit acts of violence against state contractors working on behalf of the state.

Hospitality



Condominium Associations

HB 913 by Representative Vicki Lopez (R-Miami) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Senator Jennifer Bradley (R-Fleming Island) sponsored the Senate companion, SB 1742.

This bill addresses multiple issues that have been ongoing in Florida's vast condominium communities over recent years. Primarily, the bill focuses on safety guidelines for condominium associations to adhere to following the Surfside condominium collapse in 2021. The bill gives condominium associations more jurisdiction over repairs and structural inspections. Additionally, the language provides clarity on maintenance responsibilities for condominium properties jointly operated with hotels and allows for the development of shared facilities between condominiums and retail businesses.

AIF supports legislation that expands Florida's residential footprint and allows for better management of facilities occupied by businesses and residents.

Employment



Employment Agreements

HB 1219 by Representative Traci Koster (R-Tampa) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Senator Tom Leek (R-Ormond Beach) sponsored the Senate companion, SB 922.

In highly competitive business environments, companies are often required to keep innovations and intellectual property developments confidential. This bill strengthens non-compete and confidential employment agreement guidelines by establishing a framework that protects confidential trade secret information. The framework sets new rules for "covered garden leave agreements" for covered employers and covered employees, as current laws allow for several loopholes that employees can use to contest

these agreements through litigation while also working for a competing business.

AIF supports legislation that protects a business' sensitive information and drives more innovation through clarified rulemaking. These standards will allow more businesses that rely heavily on research and development to invest in Florida and create new jobs in various industry sectors.

Energy



Energy Infrastructure Investment

SB 1574 by Senator Nick DiCeglie (R-Indian Rocks Beach) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Representative Jennifer Kincart-Jonsson (R-Lake-land) sponsored the House companion, HB 1239.

Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) continues to expand its presence in Florida's economy as it becomes a more practical and cost-effective source of renewable energy. This bill would grant public utilities a cost-recovery mechanism for qualifying RNG infrastructure projects. The bill would also encourage further solutions for the capture, sale, and reuse of methane gas.

AIF supports legislation that provides an economically and technically feasible framework that encourages development and investment in renewable natural gas, hydrogen, and other energy technologies.

General Government



Waste Management

SB 1822 by Senator Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) died after multiple amendments between both chambers in the final hours of session. Representative Meg Weinberger (R-Palm Beach Gardens) sponsored the House companion, HB 1609.

The original Senate bill would have established a pre-emption on local governments that currently have the

ability to regulate auxiliary containers. The bill would have added definitions that clarify auxiliary containers as “reusable or single-use bags, cups, bottles, cans, or other packaging that are made of cloth, paper, plastic, and other frequently recycled materials. The definitions also included materials used for food consumption or delivery by a restaurant or retailer.

The House refused to include the auxiliary container language and only kept the language regarding waste incinerators.

AIF supports legislation that unifies regulatory measures to a uniform standard that applies to all of Florida’s 67 counties. These measures would have eased compliance difficulties for Florida businesses and consumers. **AIF opposed removing the auxiliary container language from the bill.**

Administrative Procedures

SB 108 by Senator Erin Grall (R-Vero Beach) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Representative Toby Overdorf (R-Palm City) sponsored the House companion, HB 433.

This bill revises Florida’s administrative code and updates timelines and processes for public hearings and how information may be incorporated by reference in agency rules. Additionally, the bill creates a process for agencies to perform reviews of existing rules and provide reports to the legislature on applicability and specific statutory authority. Additionally it balances the consistency and predictability needed to conduct business in Florida while also ensuring agencies are adopting and implementing rules consistent with their specific statutory authority. Other versions of this bill included sunset provisions of rules, which would lead to lengthy processes for agencies to reconsider and inconsistency for Florida’s businesses.

AIF supports legislation that reduces administrative patchwork within state agencies and local authorities and provides transparency on administrative actions from those entities.

Emergencies

SB 180 by Senator Nick DiCeglie (R-Indian Rocks Beach) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Representative Fiona McFarland (R-Sarasota) sponsored the House companion, HB 1535.

This bill modifies the way local and county governments may respond to development after emergency declarations. The bill prohibits overly burdensome regulations from being passed after a federal disaster declaration fol-

lowing a hurricane. The goal of the added language in the amended bill is to allow communities to plan and develop in the years after a storm as they see fit without making more restrictive policies directly after a storm event.

AIF supports legislation that clarifies comprehensive plan adjustment timelines after a storm or disaster. Allowing for more time to process and recover before major zoning decisions are made will allow businesses to rebuild and make the best decisions during recovery.

Local Government

SB 1080 by Senator Stan McClain (R-Ocala) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Representative Toby Overdorf (R-Palm City) sponsored the House companion, HB 579.

This bill works to clear up regulatory patchwork at the local level by revising existing permitting processes that are often backlogged and provide an open door for selective scrutiny towards applicants for certain projects within municipal boundaries. The bill advances the timelines and reporting requirements for such applications.

AIF supports legislation that streamlines local bureaucratic efficiency and provides a more expedient and transparent permitting application process for Florida businesses.

Artificial Intelligence



Provenance of Digital Content

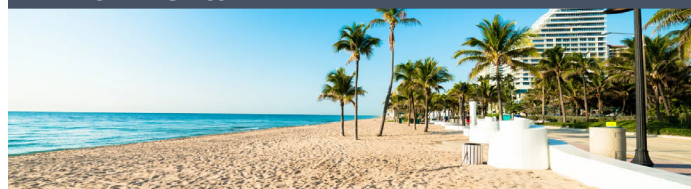
HB 369 by Representative Fiona McFarland (R-Sarasota) died on the House Floor. SB 702 by Senator Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) died in the Senate Ethics & Elections Committee.

This bill would have reworked existing laws that govern online digital content by providing definitions and guidelines related to “provenance data.” As defined in the legislation, provenance data is “information identifying whether some or all of the content has been derived through generative artificial intelligence and, if so, the name of the generative artificial intelligence tool used to generate such content and the organization that developed such tool.” This definition would require businesses to provide notice and origin information

on the generative AI that is being used on their platform.

AIF opposed early versions of the bill and continued to monitor and work on amended versions to improve the legislation to ensure all of Florida's businesses could comply.

Environmental



Land Development

SB 492 by Senator Stan McClain (R-Ocala) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Representative Wyman Duggan (R-Jacksonville) sponsored the House companion, HB 1175.

This bill expands laws passed by the legislature in 2024 that provided credits for environmental mitigation projects. The legislation would allow state agencies that govern mitigation credits to offer credits outside the service area of authorized mitigation banks. This is a resource already available at the federal level.

AIF supports legislation that expands access to water quality mitigation projects. These measures will allow businesses to operate effectively while working alongside regulators on lands/waterways categorized as mitigation banks.

Spring Restoration

SB 1228 by Senator Stan McClain (R-Ocala) was passed by both chambers and awaits action by the Governor. Representative Bill Conerly (R-Lakewood Ranch) sponsored the House companion, HB 691.

SB 1228 redesigns the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's jurisdiction and approval standards over certain water reclamation projects. The goal of the legislation is to help replenish, restore, and protect Florida's aquifer through public/private partnerships that fund projects in rural areas. These projects can include wastewater treatment centers, pumping/transmission stations, and water reclamation facilities.

AIF supports projects which maintain and grow Florida's water supply so that business, residents and our pristine natural resources are all protected.

Agriculture



Ad Valorem Tax Exemption

HB 1215 by Representative Danny Alvarez (R-Fish Hawk) was passed by both chambers and will be on the 2026 General Election ballot. Senator Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) sponsored the Senate companion, SB 318.

This joint resolution will place on the ballot a chance for farmers in Florida to receive tax relief by exempting tangible property taxes. This will allow farmers in Florida to flourish in the state.

AIF supports reducing tax burdens for Florida businesses, including farmers who produce products essential for our state.

Housing for Legally Verified Agricultural Workers

SB 84 by Senator Jay Collins (R-Tampa) was amended onto SB 700 during session, and is awaiting action by the Governor. The original bill died in the Senate Community Affairs Committee without a hearing. There was no House companion to SB 84.

This language prohibits government entities from adopting ordinances that further prohibit housing projects from being constructed for legally verified agricultural workers on farmlands. The bill provides a framework for following federal and state regulations on development requirements while allowing for cost-effective housing to be built quickly and safely.

AIF supports legislation that aims to clarify how farmers can use their land for the development of housing units for their employees. In a state where housing costs continue to rise, allowing legal and verified workers to live on the lands where they work will benefit both the farmers and their employees.

Visit **AIF.com** for more information.

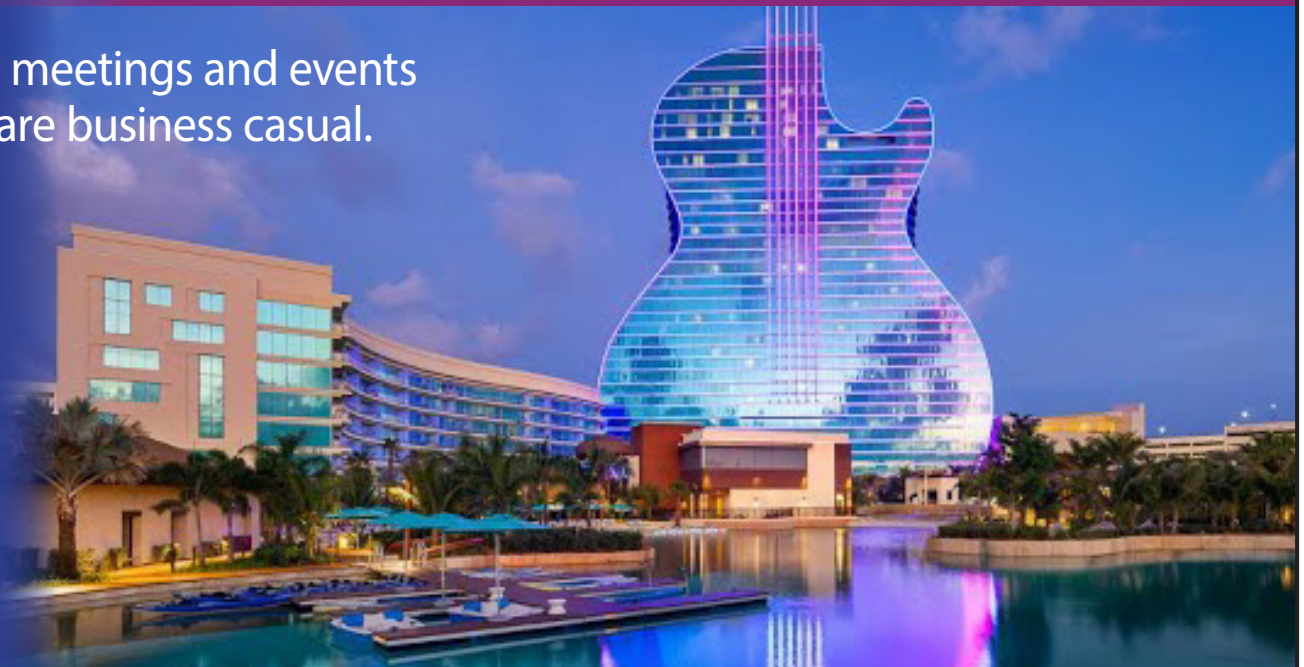
Summer Policy & Political Retreat • June 23-24 Henderson Beach Resort, Destin

All meetings and events
are resort casual.



Fall Political & Policy Retreat • September 9-10 Seminole Hard Rock Hotel, Hollywood

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► For more information, please visit AIF.com or contact Stephen Trickey, AIF EVP & COO, at stickey@aif.com.

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